



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OFFICE OF
INSPECTOR GENERAL

December 12, 2014

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Hotline Complaint for California Air Resources Board

FROM: Kevin Christensen, Assistant Inspector General
Office of Audit

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "K. Christensen", is placed to the right of the "FROM:" line.

TO: Jared Blumenfeld, Regional Administrator
Region 9

The purpose of this memorandum is to notify you of the completion of our review of a hotline complaint that alleged misuse of U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) grant money. The complainant stated that the California Air Resources Board's (CARB's) management misused \$118,000 of EPA Grant 103 funds to purchase a CETAC LSX-213G2 High Density Laser system that, other than preliminary testing, has been unused since the date of purchase. Additionally, CARB was alleged to be spending \$37,000 for a service contract for the aforementioned equipment. The complainant alleged that CARB is reporting "inaccurate air toxic metals data" to the public which may compromise the quality of California's historical record for ambient air toxic levels of metals as required by the Air Toxics "Hot Spots" Information and Assessment Act.

During our review we found that CARB intends to use the equipment once staff become available. CARB paid for the service contract with non-federal funds. Reporting air toxic data for metals is a state of California requirement, not a federal reporting requirement, and therefore its accuracy is outside the jurisdiction of the EPA Office of Inspector General. Therefore, we did not find any indicators of fraud, waste or abuse related to EPA funds or noncompliance with EPA reporting requirements. As a result, we are closing this hotline complaint with no further review.

If you have any questions or wish to discuss the contents of this memorandum, please contact Janet Kasper at (312) 886-3059 or kasper.janet@epa.gov, or Mary Anne Strasser at (303) 312-6972 or strasser.maryanne@epa.gov.

cc: Mary D. Nichols, Chairman, California Air Resources Board
Janet McCabe, Acting Assistant Administrator, Office of Air and Radiation
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